

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the claims to overcome the rejections with respect to the cited prior art reference to *Matsumura*. Applicant's invention comprises at least four elements that are not shown or described by that reference, including: (1) a groove 27 (Figure 4a) defined between two arms 25, 26 on the latching mechanism 20, and complementary flat projection 33 (Figure 5b) on stopper 30 for engaging the groove 27 (Figures 3a and 9); (2) an iron band 39 (Figures 10a-d) on stopper 30 adjacent the flat projection 33; (3) an axial post 29 (Figures 11-13) on latching mechanism 20 for engagement by stopper 30; and (4) spring-loaded linear movement 41 (Figures 14-15) on stopper 30. Each of these elements is distinguished below with respect to *Matsumura*.

For example, with respect to element (1), *Matsumura* discloses an inertia latching mechanism 55 (Figure 2) that is regulated by a stopper 54. Stopper 54 limits the range of motion of the entire body of latching mechanism 55 with a block 58 (Figure 3a) and a small unnumbered block (Figure 3b). Thus, unlike Applicant's element (1), *Matsumura's* latching mechanism 55 does not have two arms that define a groove, nor does its stopper 54 have a "flat projection" for engaging such a groove to limit the range of motion of its latching mechanism 55.

With respect to element (2) described above, *Matsumura* discloses a magnet 60 (Figure 2) mounted directly to the pivot axis of its latching mechanism 55. The magnet 60 directly engages (Figures 3a-b) an iron piece 18 on actuator arm 19. *Matsumura's* stopper 54 does not have a magnet or an iron piece. In contrast, Applicant has an iron band 39 (Figure 10) on stopper 30, and utilizes the existing magnet in the voice coil motor of the actuator. Moreover, Applicant's iron band 39 never makes contact with the magnet because of the size of cam 34. Finally, Applicant does not use a magnet or iron piece on its latching mechanism 20, which clearly distinguishes the reference.

With respect to element (3) described above, *Matsumura* again is limited to using the body of its latching mechanism 55 between block 58 (Figure 3a) and the lower right block (not numbered in Figure 3b). *Matsumura* does not show or describe any embodiments with an axial post on its latching mechanism 55 for engagement by its stopper 54. Likewise with respect to element (4) described above, *Matsumura* does not show or describe any embodiments with spring-loaded linear movement of its stopper 54. As shown in Figures 3c and 3d, *Matsumura* only uses a pivot spring 52 to rotate its stopper 54.

Accordingly, Applicant's claims now contain one or more of these unique elements to distinguish the cited reference. For example, Claim 1 now requires element (1), namely, the latching mechanism to have "a first end for securely holding the moving member in place, and a second end having a pair of arms and a groove formed between the pair of arms." In contrast, *Matsumura's* latching mechanism 55 (best shown in Figure 2) has no such geometry. These geometric requirements are further developed in Claim 1 by requiring the switching mechanism to have "a flat projection that locates in the groove to engage and retain the latching mechanism in the inoperative state." *Matsumura's* switching mechanism 54 uses blocks 58 to limit the movement of the body of latching mechanism 55.

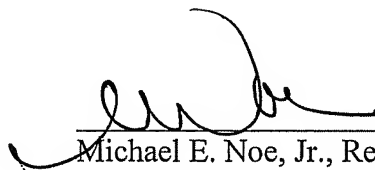
Dependent Claim 2 requires the actuator 10 (Figure 3a) to have an end part 161 for being latched by first end 23 of the latching mechanism 20. *Matsumura's* only means of engagement is its actuator iron piece 18 (Figure 3a-d) for magnetic attachment to a magnet 60 on latching mechanism 55. Claim 3 now requires element (4), namely, that "the switching mechanism comprises a support member attached to a base, a shaft axially slidable relative to the support member, a stopper member attached to the shaft adjacent the moving member, a biasing member

on the shaft between the support member and the stopper member." Again, nothing in *Matsumura* shows or describes axial motion by its stopper 54, but only pivotal motion.

Claim 4 employs element (3), namely, that "an iron element is secured to the switching mechanism adjacent the flat projection, the iron element being magnetically attracted to the moving member for moving the switching mechanism." In direct contrast, *Matsumura* only employs a magnet on its latching mechanism 55 (i.e., not on its stopper 54), and its "iron piece 18" is on its actuator, not on its stopper 54. Like Claim 2, the physical requirements of Claim 5 (i.e., "a stopper member interlocked with the moving member") cannot be satisfied by *Matsumura's* magnet 60 on its latching mechanism 54. Simply put, there is no magnet or iron piece on *Matsumura's* stopper 54. Independent Claim 6 incorporates element (2), while dependent Claims 7, 9, and 11 add elements (1), (4), and (3), respectively. Finally, independent Claim 13 requires element (4), while dependent Claims 14, 15, and 16 add elements (2), (1), and (3), respectively.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested. No fee for an extension of time or any other fees are believed to be required. However, in the event that any additional fees are required, please charge them to **Hitachi Global Storage Technologies' Deposit Account Number 50-2587.**

Respectfully submitted,



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